

Legs black; middle femur with comb below; hind tibia with moderately long hairs.

Length, 12 mm.

This species belongs to Aldrich's (1916) group E. It may be separated from *Sarcophaga houghi* Ald. by the absence of a conspicuous hump on the back of the aedeagus. The absence of several slender processes at apex of the aedeagus distinguishes this species from *Sarcophaga miscra* var. *harpax* P.

Described from one male collected July 4 at White Face Mt., Adirondacks, N. Y., altitude 3800 feet (J. M. Aldrich).

*Holotype*.—Male, Cat. No. 52085, U. S. N. M.

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### REVISION OF THE SUBFAMILY ONCERINAE WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE).

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The beetles of this group are quite small and their distribution is rather localized in Southern and Lower California; these reasons probably account for the fact that adequate series have not heretofore been assembled and the true relationships of the species revealed. The availability of a small series of the rare *Nefoncerus convergens* and a large number of specimens of the commoner *Oncerus floralis* has induced the writer to study the taxonomy of the group with the result that he finds it necessary to remove them from their present systematic position.

*Oncerus* and the related new genus, herein described as *Nefoncerus*, are characterized mainly by having the labrum connate with the apex of the clypeus but on the same plane with the latter, and by the presence of the abdominal spiracles entirely in the membrane. These two genera can not be placed either with such other Laparastict scarabs as *Chnaunanthus* of the Chasmatopterinae, with *Aclopus* of the *Aclopinac*, nor with any other related subfamilies, mainly because of the radically different type of clypeal and labrum formation; all of these other subfamilies either have the mandibles large and exposed, the head and thorax armed with horns, or if the labrum be exposed it is small and inserted *under* the clypeus and *not* inserted at the apex of the clypeus and on the same plane with the latter, as is the case in *Oncerus*.

*Oncerus* and *Nefoncerus* are probably closest to *Aclopus* of the Aclopinac, but differ from the latter especially in having the labrum and clypeus on the same plane and the mandibles not visible from above, as well as such supplementary characters as the basically different type of tarsal claws (short and cleft, rather than long, slender and simple), the smaller eyes and the different facies.

*Oncerus* and *Nefoncerus* are also somewhat similar to the Melolonthine tribes Sericini and Liparetrini, but differ from the latter two in the matter of the spiracular arrangement and in most instances in the insertion of the labrum.

It may also be noted here that the tribe Liparetrini as listed in the Coleopterorum Catalogus is composed of many diverse elements and the whole tribe needs careful study. The Australian *Pachytrichia castanea*, for instance (having labrum inserted at apex clypeus and on the same plane, and the last abdominal spiracle inserted in a fold) is placed next to the American *Plectrodes* (having the labrum inserted so far back under the clypeus as to be invisible from above, and the last spiracle situated on the slight suture between the connate 5th ventral and the propygidial segments)!

Were it not for the different type of abdominal spiracle arrangement, *Oncerus* et al could be placed with *Phyllotocus* in the Sericini since this common Australian genus is quite similar in the insertion of the labrum, differing mainly in the type of claws and the often-carinate pygidium, as well as in the highly spinose type of hind tibiae. The genus *Cheiragra*, however, also Australian and placed right next to *Phyllotocus* has the labrum inserted under the clypeus, so that it appears as though many former students of the scarabs had somehow overlooked the importance of the insertion of the labrum.

It being impossible to satisfactorily place the genera *Oncerus* and *Nefoncerus* in any of the known subfamilies it becomes necessary to designate a new one for them, and this may be

known as the subfamily ONCERINAE, characterized by having all the abdominal spiracles in the membrane, the labrum inserted at the apex of the clypeus and on the same plane, the claws short and cleft (variously modified in one species) and the abdominal segments either connate or free.

The only two genera known definitely to belong in the new subfamily may be separated as follows:

(The males are more slender and have the abdomen flattened or concave in side view, whereas the females have the abdomen convex and the general habitus much more robust.)

Front tarsal claws male similar to each other and to those of female and simply cleft, no basal dilation; abdominal segments, except last, closely connate and sutures hardly or not discernible; hind tibiae  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times longer than widest point, the spurs inserted *at* apex, and on inner, lower margin; clypeus with sides parallel or slightly convergent basally. (California.).....*Oncerus*.

Front claws male strongly dissimilar to each other and to those of female hind and middle claws with large basal dilation, thus appearing tridentate; abdominal segments entirely free, sutures strong; hind tibiae nearly 3 times longer than wide, the spurs inserted definitely *before* the apex and on the outer, upper margin; clypeus with sides strongly convergent apically. (Lower California.).....*Nefoncerus*.

### *Oncerus floralis* Leconte.

(Figure 1, a-d.)

*Oncerus floralis* Leconte, Jour. Ac. N. S. Phila. (2), III, 1856, pg. 284; Dalla Torre, Junk Col. Cat. pars 45, pg. 7. 1912.

Head and thorax piceous, elytra testaceo-castaneous. Clypeus extremely coarsely punctured, and tumid at middle; front coarsely punctured in apical half, basal half and vertex smooth. Thorax moderately coarsely, irregularly and sparsely punctured. Elytra covered with very long, rather dense hair. Length 3. to 3.8 mm.

The only described species in this genus can be taken in moderate abundance in the southern Californian desert regions early in the year, on all types of flowers. Found commonly on *Malocathrix glabrata* flowers by McKenzie and Timberlake in Borego Valley on March 20. Occurs to San Diego, and apparently known only from California. The author has examined well over a hundred examples and little or no variation occurs in the species that he has noted.

### NEFONCERUS Saylor, new genus.

Oblong-oval, sparsely pilose above. Ligula separate from mentum. Labrum prolonged beyond apex of clypeus and on the same plane with the latter. Head with clypeus rapidly narrowed apically, suture distinct; eyes moderate, not

prominent. Antennae 9-segmented, club 3-segments, antennal club small and subglobose. Thorax transverse, sides subarcuately rounded, hind angles very broadly rounded, front angles subangulate; front margin slightly membranous. Abdominal segments free, not at all connate. Front outer claws male strongly dissimilar, and unlike those of the hind and middle legs; all claws of female similar. Middle and hind tarsal claws with large acute basal dilation, thus appearing tridentate. Otherwise as in *Oncerus floralis*.

*Genotype*.—*Oncerus convergens* Horn.

While appearing somewhat similar to *Oncerus floralis* in some of the characters, the presence of marked sexual dimorphism in the claws of one species and not in another, correlated with the great differences in the basic tibial, claw and abdominal structures, necessitates the separation of *O. convergens* into another genus. The hind tibiae of *Nefoncerus* in proportions, and manner and placement of the hind tibial spurs differ noticeably from those of *Oncerus floralis*, as may be readily seen from the key. While it may be pointed out that the connate condition of the abdomen, the shape of the clypeus, etc., are not good generic characters, the author feels that the placement of the tibial spurs on entirely different areas of the tibiae, correlated with the sexual dimorphism as exhibited in the front claws, and the different facies, makes the separation of *O. convergens* from *O. floralis* more or less obligatory.

#### **Nefoncerus convergens** (Horn).

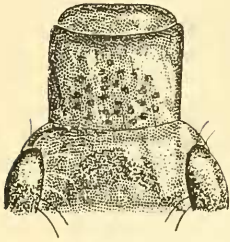
(Figure 2, a-e, Plate 11.)

*Oncerus convergens* Horn, Proc. Cal. Ac. Sci., ser. 2, IV, 1894, p. 394.

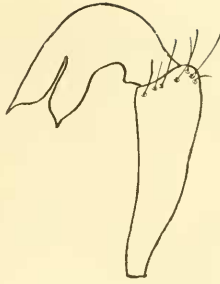
Head with clypeus and front very coarsely punctured, pilose. Thorax rufous, densely coarsely punctured over the entire surface, the hind angles very broadly rounded. Front tibiae with a very sharp submedian tooth; tarsi as in the figures, the hind and middle tarsi similar to each other. Elytra with somewhat sparse, short, subprocumbent hair. Length 4 mm.

The writer has examined 7 specimens of this rather rare and localized species, all from Lower California: San Jose del Cabo and Calmalli Mines, collected by Hubbard & Schwartz, and by Chas. Fuchs. The brief description as given above correlated with the key and accompanying figures, should enable one to readily place this species.

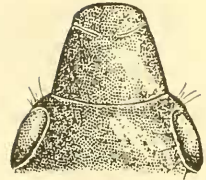
The writer is indebted to Dr. E. A. Chapin of the U. S. National Museum for helpful suggestions and the loan of material, as well as to Dr. E. C. Van Dyke for the use of the material in the California Academy of Sciences.



1 a



1 d



2 a



1 b



2 e



2 b



1 c



2 d



2 c

EXPLANATION OF FIGURES.

- Figure 1: *Oncerus floralis* Leconte
- Figure 2: *Nefoncerus convergens* (Horn)
- a: Head, dorsal view
- b: Inner view of hind tibiae
- c: Male genitalia
- d: Front inner male claw.
- e: Front outer male claw.